

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCA-01 SAJ-01 CPR-02 SCS-03 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4691

UNCLAS PRAGUE 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CGEN, CZ, US

SUBJECT: SECVISIT/PRAGUE -SIGNING OF CONSULAR CONVENTION

1. FOLLOWING WAS NOT CLEARED BY SECRETARY'S PARTY PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM PRAGUE.
2. MONDAY, JULY 9 AT 0930 LOCAL TIME SECRETARY ROGERS AND CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK SIGNED US-CZECHOSLOVAK CONSULAR CONVENTION AND ACCOMPANYING NOTES DURING BRIEF CEREMONY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. WESTERN AND CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS AND RADIO/TV WERE PRESENT.
3. READING PREPARED COMMENTS IN ENGLISH AFTER SIGNING, CHNOUPEK DESCRIBED CONVENTION AS BEGINNING OF NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS, AND NOTED COOPERATIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE RELATED SIGNING OF CONVENTION TO COMPLETION OF FIRST STAGE OF CSCE, WHICH PRESAGED NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, AND TO BREZHNEV'S US VISIT AND ITS EFFECT IN IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. IN CONCLUSION HE EMPHASIZED CZECHOSLOVAK INTEREST IN RESOLVING CLAIMS PROBLEM WITH US, IN US-CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE AGREEMENT, AND IN AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

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4. SECRETARY RESPONDED WITH BRIEF STATEMENT DESCRIBING

CONVENTION AS ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCK IN NEW
RELATIONSHIP BEING CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND
US, WHICH WOULD ENABLE BOTH COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE IMPROVED
CONSULAR PROTECTION AND FACILITATE FREER FLOW OF PEOPLE AND
INCREASE IN TRADE. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE BASIS, ONCE OUR
EXPANDING RELATIONSHIP CREATED THE NEED, FOR OPENING CONSULATES
AT CHICAGO AND BRATISLAVA. SECRETARY SAID
CONVENTION WAS GOOD STEP IN SPIRIT OF CSCE, AND WOULD PROVIDE
FRAMEWORK FOR RESOLVING CONSULAR PROBLEMS WHICH IN PAST HAD
PRODUCED IRRITANTS AFFECTING OVERALL RELATIONS.

5. AFTER SIGNING, SECRETARY AND MINISTER WITHDREW FOR PRIVATE
MEETING, WHICH BEGAN AT 1000, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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